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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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**Applicants** : Jithamithra Sarathy, et al.  
**Title of Invention** : METHOD FOR BIT-RATE AND  
FORMAT INSENSITIVE PERFORMANCE  
MONITORING OF LIGHTWAVE SIGNALS  
**Filed** : May 9, 2001  
**Serial No.** : 09/852,582  
**Examiner** : NGUYEN, JOSEPH  
**Art Unit** : 2815

5-23-2  
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**Box Fee Amendment**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**Washington, DC 20231**

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

This is responsive to the Office Action dated January 3, 2002 in connection with the above-referenced patent application. Applicants hereby request a one-month extension of time within which to respond to the Office Action, for which a check in the amount of \$55.00 is submitted herewith (Applicants are a small entity).

**AFFIRMATION OF PROVISIONAL ELECTION:**

In the Office Action, affirmation was requested of the provisional election made by Applicants' attorney telephonically. Applicants hereby affirm that election, and elect to prosecute Invention I, being claims 1-13 and 16-19.

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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel Claim 17 without prejudice.